
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 120 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, BARTOLOTTA, HUTCHINSON, DUSH AND FARRY,
JUNE 2, 2023

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, JUNE 2, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study on the emergency medical services providers
3 in this Commonwealth and the financial impact of
4 nonreimbursable services for emergency response calls not
5 resulting in a medical assistance beneficiary receiving
6 transportation to a hospital or treatment facility and to
7 issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the
8 Senate.

9 WHEREAS, According to the Office of Attorney General, 5,168
10 Pennsylvanians died from overdoses in 2021; and

11 WHEREAS, On average, 15 Pennsylvanians died every day from an
12 overdose in 2021; and

13 WHEREAS, The introduction of overdose reversal medications
14 and Statewide orders to ensure free access to these tools in
15 2015 for emergency personnel has undoubtedly saved thousands of
16 lives throughout this Commonwealth; and

17 WHEREAS, Emergency medical services providers are required to
18 carry overdose reversal products like Naloxone and to administer
19 them free of charge to those they treat; and

20 WHEREAS, The substance-use-related calls that do not result
21 in a transport to a hospital or treatment facility are costly to

1 the emergency medical services providers on scene who are not
2 reimbursed by the medical assistance program for their response
3 or the treatment that they provide to medical assistance
4 beneficiaries; and

5 WHEREAS, The intent of this resolution is to collect data
6 that will support policy changes to make emergency medical
7 services providers financially whole because their communities,
8 constituents and health care systems depend on them; therefore
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Legislative Budget and
11 Finance Committee to conduct a study on the emergency medical
12 services providers in this Commonwealth and the financial impact
13 of nonreimbursable services for emergency response calls not
14 resulting in a medical assistance beneficiary receiving
15 transportation to a hospital or treatment facility and to issue
16 a report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate; and
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the study include all of the following, using
19 the most recent data available, regarding the medical assistance
20 program in Pennsylvania:

21 (1) The average dollar amount that managed care
22 organizations contracted to provide services to medical
23 assistance program beneficiaries reimburses emergency medical
24 services providers, pursuant to Act 103 of 2018, for all
25 reasonably necessary costs associated with emergency medical
26 services provided during the period of an emergency, subject
27 to all copayments, coinsurances or deductibles, when the
28 beneficiary did not require transport or refused to be
29 transported.

30 (2) Approximately how many beneficiaries were treated by

1 emergency medical services providers and did not require
2 transport or refused to be transported.

3 (3) Approximately how many beneficiaries were treated
4 for a substance-use-related overdose by emergency medical
5 services providers and did not require transport or refused
6 to be transported.

7 (4) The approximate number of emergency response calls
8 in which services were rendered by an emergency medical
9 services provider and the beneficiary did not require
10 transport or refused to be transported, and in which the
11 emergency medical services provider was not paid, whether
12 partially or in full, for the services rendered.

13 (5) The approximate average time spent by emergency
14 medical services providers at emergency response calls that
15 involve a beneficiary who did not require transport or
16 refused to be transported.

17 (6) The approximate cost incurred by emergency medical
18 services providers for an emergency response call that
19 involved a beneficiary who did not require transport or
20 refused transport, for any other rationale than a substance-
21 use-related overdose.

22 (7) Consideration of any other factors that enables the
23 General Assembly to evaluate and determine how to ensure that
24 emergency medical services providers in this Commonwealth are
25 being fairly and justly paid for their services;

26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
28 report its findings to the General Assembly no later than March
29 1, 2024.