

Protect Emergency/911 Services

Strike SECTION 92

SECTION 92 jeopardizes proper funding and reimbursement for emergency/911 ambulance services.

Background

Fire Chiefs and Municipalities have been advocating strongly to prevent direct payment for emergency 911/ambulance services to patients because that scheme costs communities and the emergency/911 system money. In addition, Chiefs and Municipalities know their community the best and should have the authority to set rates of reimbursement that are fair.

The past 2 sessions the Legislature has passed and sent to the Governor a measure to prevent unilateral slashing of reimbursements for emergency medical services while ensuring a fair reimbursement for emergency/911 ambulance services. Unfortunately the Governor has sent these bills back with amendment and no resolution was reached.

SECTION 92 of the Senate Ways and Means proposal further jeopardizes fair reimbursement of emergency/911 services

Massachusetts has a modern EMS system. Today's ambulances are hospitals on wheels and they are saving lives and health care dollars. They invest in technology, state-of-the-art equipment and qualified 911 personnel. Section 92 will undoubtedly lead to cuts in reimbursement rates – when that happens patients suffer.

Threat to public safety

Massachusetts fire chiefs are gravely concerned about maintaining safe response times to emergency 911 calls. When insurers try schemes to slash reimbursements fewer ambulances are on the road, response times increase, and our citizens suffer.

More costly health care

Increased response times harm patients and increase health care costs when patients don't receive the emergency care they need in a timely manner. When patients get stabilized and get to us quickly lives are saved and more costly health care interventions are averted.



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