

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 26-0232.01 Josh Schultz x5486

**HOUSE BILL 26-1069**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Feret and Stewart K.**, Bacon, Boesenecker, Bradley, Brown, Camacho, Carter, Duran, Flanell, Gonzalez R., Hamrick, Jackson, Johnson, Joseph, Keltie, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Marshall, McCluskie, McCormick, Nguyen, Paschal, Phillips, Rutinel, Slaugh, Smith, Stewart R., Titone

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Mullica,**

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**House Committees**

Health & Human Services  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

Health & Human Services  
Appropriations

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF EMERGENCY**  
102              **MEDICAL SERVICES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING**  
103              **AND REDUCING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill clarifies that "emergency services" includes transportation of an individual to an appropriate location other than a hospital or community integrated health-care service agency (agency).

The use of telemedicine when an insured person has encountered an ambulance service or agency to prevent the need to transport the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 9, 2026

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 6, 2026

person to an emergency department is included in the definition of "emergency services", which services are required to be made available to insured persons 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

The bill defines "first responder" to include:

- A peace officer;
- A firefighter;
- A volunteer firefighter;
- An emergency medical service provider; or
- A mental health professional who responds in a professional capacity to a justifiable medical emergency.

The bill requires the executive director of the department of public health and environment to adopt rules by June 1, 2027, authorizing an emergency medical service provider with a community paramedic endorsement who is employed by, volunteering for, or contracting with a licensed agency to provide for the inventory, compliance, and administration of, or to directly administer, medications, procedures, or diagnostic testing.

Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill requires the department of health care policy and financing to reimburse the following entities under the "Colorado Medical Assistance Act":

- An ambulance service or an agency for transportation by an ambulance or other vehicle to a hospital or other destination as deemed appropriate by the ambulance service's or agency's medical director;
- An ambulance service or an agency for treatment on the scene of a medical emergency, which treatment does not result in transportation; and
- A qualified provider, an ambulance service, or an agency for evaluation by telemedicine of a person being treated by an ambulance service or an agency for the purpose of preventing the need to transport the person to a hospital.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

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4 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-1-119, **add** (19)

5 as follows:

6 **24-1-119. Department of public health and environment -**

7 **creation.**

1 (19) THE STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND TRAUMA SERVICES  
2 ADVISORY COUNCIL, CREATED IN SECTION 25-3.5-104 (1), IS A TYPE 2  
3 ENTITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-1-105.

4 SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-3.5-103, amend  
5 (8.5), (8.6), (8.7), (8.8), and (9); and add (9.5) as follows:

6 **25-3.5-103. Definitions.**

7 As used in this article 3.5, unless the context otherwise requires:

8 (8.5) ~~"Health information organization network" means an~~  
9 ~~organization that oversees and governs the exchange of health-related~~  
10 ~~information among organizations according to nationally recognized~~  
11 ~~standards.~~ "FIRST RESPONDER" MEANS:

- 12 (a) A PEACE OFFICER, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 16-2.5-101;  
13 (b) A FIREFIGHTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 29-5-203 (10);  
14 (c) A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
15 31-30-1102 (9)(a);  
16 (d) AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER; AND  
17 (e) A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WHO RESPONDS IN A  
18 PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY TO A JUSTIFIABLE MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

19 (8.6) ~~"Justifiable medical emergency" means an underlying~~  
20 ~~medical, traumatic, or psychiatric condition posing an immediate safety~~  
21 ~~risk to the individual, emergency medical service provider, or public.~~  
22 ~~Excited delirium, any subsequent term for excited delirium, or any acute~~  
23 ~~psychiatric diagnosis not recognized in the most recent edition of the~~  
24 ~~diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders is not a justifiable~~  
25 ~~medical emergency~~ "HEALTH INFORMATION ORGANIZATION NETWORK"  
26 MEANS AN ORGANIZATION THAT OVERSEES AND GOVERNS THE EXCHANGE  
27 OF HEALTH-RELATED INFORMATION AMONG ORGANIZATIONS ACCORDING

1 TO NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STANDARDS.

2 (8.7) ~~"Local licensing authority" means the governing body of a~~  
3 ~~city and county or the board of county commissioners in a county in the~~  
4 ~~state~~ "JUSTIFIABLE MEDICAL EMERGENCY" MEANS AN UNDERLYING  
5 MEDICAL, TRAUMATIC, OR PSYCHIATRIC CONDITION POSING AN IMMEDIATE  
6 SAFETY RISK TO THE INDIVIDUAL, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE  
7 PROVIDER, OR PUBLIC. EXCITED DELIRIUM, ANY SUBSEQUENT TERM FOR  
8 EXCITED DELIRIUM, OR ANY ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS NOT  
9 RECOGNIZED IN THE MOST RECENT EDITION OF THE DIAGNOSTIC AND  
10 STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS IS NOT A JUSTIFIABLE  
11 MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

12 (8.8) ~~"Medical direction" includes, but is not limited to, the~~  
13 ~~following:~~ "LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY" MEANS THE GOVERNING BODY  
14 OF A CITY AND COUNTY OR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN A  
15 COUNTY IN THE STATE.

16 (a) ~~Approval of the medical components of treatment protocols~~  
17 ~~and appropriate prearrival instructions;~~

18 (b) ~~Routine review of program performance and maintenance of~~  
19 ~~active involvement in quality improvement activities, including access to~~  
20 ~~dispatch tapes as necessary for the evaluation of procedures;~~

21 (c) ~~Authority to recommend appropriate changes to protocols for~~  
22 ~~the improvement of patient care; and~~

23 (d) ~~Provision of oversight for the ongoing education, training, and~~  
24 ~~quality assurance for providers of emergency care.~~

25 (9) ~~"Patient" means any individual who is sick, injured, or~~  
26 ~~otherwise incapacitated or helpless.~~ "MEDICAL DIRECTION" INCLUDES, BUT  
27 IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

1 (a) APPROVAL OF THE MEDICAL COMPONENTS OF TREATMENT  
2 PROTOCOLS AND APPROPRIATE PREARRIVAL INSTRUCTIONS;

3 (b) ROUTINE REVIEW OF PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND  
4 MAINTENANCE OF ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT  
5 ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ACCESS TO DISPATCH TAPES AS NECESSARY FOR  
6 THE EVALUATION OF PROCEDURES;

7 (c) AUTHORITY TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO  
8 PROTOCOLS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PATIENT CARE; AND

9 (d) PROVISION OF OVERSIGHT FOR THE ONGOING EDUCATION,  
10 TRAINING, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR PROVIDERS OF EMERGENCY  
11 CARE.

12 (9.5) "PATIENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SICK, INJURED, OR  
13 OTHERWISE INCAPACITATED OR HELPLESS.

14 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-3.5-104, **amend**  
15 **(4)(d)** as follows:

16 **25-3.5-104. Emergency medical and trauma services advisory**  
17 **council - creation - duties.**

18 (4) The council shall:

19 (d) Review and ~~approve~~ **MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO APPROVE**  
20 **OR DENY new rules CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND TRAUMA**  
21 **SERVICES and modifications to rules CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL**  
22 **AND TRAUMA SERVICES existing prior to July 1, 2000, prior to the**  
23 **adoption of such rules or modifications by the state board of health;**

24 ■ ■

25 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25.5-4-436 as  
26 follows:

27 **25.5-4-436. Transportation by ambulance or other vehicle -**

1 **treatment on scene of a medical emergency - evaluation by**  
2 **telemedicine - definitions.**

3 (1) ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2027, THE STATE DEPARTMENT  
4 SHALL REIMBURSE:

5 (a) AN AMBULANCE SERVICE **FOR GROUND** TRANSPORTATION BY  
6 AN AMBULANCE OR OTHER APPROPRIATELY SITUATED VEHICLE TO A  
7 HOSPITAL OR OTHER DESTINATION AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE  
8 AMBULANCE SERVICE'S **MEDICAL DIRECTOR**;

9 (b) AN AMBULANCE SERVICE **FOR TREATMENT ON THE SCENE**  
10 OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, WHICH TREATMENT DOES NOT RESULT IN  
11 **GROUND** TRANSPORTATION; AND

12 (c) A QUALIFIED PROVIDER, AN AMBULANCE SERVICE, OR **AN**  
13 **AGENCY PROVIDING OUT-OF-HOSPITAL SERVICES FOR** EVALUATION BY  
14 TELEMEDICINE OF A PERSON BEING TREATED BY AN AMBULANCE SERVICE  
15 OR **AN AGENCY PROVIDING OUT-OF-HOSPITAL SERVICES** FOR THE PURPOSE  
16 OF PREVENTING THE NEED TO TRANSPORT THE PERSON TO A HOSPITAL.  
17 TELEMEDICINE SHALL BE BILLED USING AN OFFICE OR OTHER OUTPATIENT  
18 SERVICES RATE AND NOT USING AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT RATE. AN  
19 AMBULANCE SERVICE OR **AN AGENCY PROVIDING OUT-OF-HOSPITAL**  
20 **SERVICES** IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROCURE TELEMEDICINE FOR A COVERED  
21 PERSON AS A CONDITION OF PAYMENT.

22 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
23 REQUIRES:

24 (a) "AMBULANCE SERVICE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN  
25 SECTION 25-3.5-103 (3).

26 (b) (I) **"OUT-OF-HOSPITAL SERVICES"** MEANS FURNISHING ANY  
27 **NECESSARY GOODS AND SERVICES OUTSIDE OF A HOSPITAL SETTING FOR**

1 THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING, ALLEVIATING, CURING, OR HEALING HUMAN  
2 ILLNESS, A PHYSICAL DISABILITY, A PHYSICAL INJURY, OR A SUBSTANCE  
3 USE DISORDER WHILE RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY OR OTHER  
4 HEALTH-CARE CONDITION.

5 (II) "OUT-OF-HOSPITAL SERVICES" DOES NOT INCLUDE  
6 PREHOSPITAL SETTING TRANSPORTS.

7 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-280-404, **amend**  
8 (7)(b) as follows:

9 **12-280-404. Program operation - access - rules - definitions.**

10 (7) (b) The board may, within existing funds available for  
11 operation of the program, provide a means of sharing prescription  
12 information and electronic health records through a board-approved  
13 vendor and method with the health information organization network, as  
14 defined in ~~section 25-3.5-103 (8.5)~~ SECTION 25-3.5-103 (8.6), in order to  
15 work collaboratively with the statewide health information exchanges  
16 designated by the department of health care policy and financing. Use of  
17 the information made available pursuant to this subsection (7)(b) is  
18 subject to privacy and security protections in state law and the federal  
19 "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996",  
20 Pub.L.104-191, as amended, and any implementing regulations.

21 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-54-101, **amend**  
22 (4) as follows:

23 **25-54-101. Definitions.**

24 As used in this article 54, unless the context otherwise requires:

25 (4) "Health information organization network" ~~means a Colorado~~  
26 ~~organization that has experience in overseeing and governing the~~  
27 ~~exchange of health-related information among organizations according~~

1 to Colorado law and nationally recognized standards including but not  
2 limited to the federal "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability  
3 Act of 1996", Pub.L. 104-191, as amended HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH  
4 IN SECTION 25-3.5-103 (8.6).

5 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-50-101, **amend**  
6 (14) as follows:

7 **27-50-101. Definitions.**

8 As used in this article 50, unless the context otherwise requires:

9 (14) "Health information organization network" has the same  
10 meaning as defined in ~~section 25-3.5-103 (8.5)~~ SECTION 25-3.5-103 (8.6).

11 **SECTION 8. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill.**

12 (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, to implement this  
13 act, appropriations made in the annual general appropriation act for the  
14 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of health care policy and  
15 financing for medical and long-term care services for Medicaid eligible  
16 individuals are adjusted as follows:

17 (a) The general fund appropriation is decreased by \$548,547; and

18 (b) The cash funds appropriation from the healthcare affordability  
19 and sustainability hospital provider fee cash fund created in section  
20 25.5-4-402.4 (5)(a), C.R.S., is decreased by \$124,822.

21 (2) The decrease of the appropriations in subsection (1) of this  
22 section is based on the assumption that the anticipated amount of federal  
23 funds received for the 2026-27 state fiscal year by the department of  
24 health care policy and financing for medical and long-term care services  
25 for Medicaid eligible individuals will decrease by \$1,458,735.

26 (3) Subsection (1) of this section does not require a reduction of  
27 an appropriation in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27

1 state fiscal year if:

2 (a) The amount of the general fund appropriation made in the  
3 annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the  
4 department of department of health care policy and financing for medical  
5 and long-term care services for Medicaid eligible individuals is less than  
6 the amount of the adjustment required in subsection (1) of this section; or

7 (b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state  
8 fiscal year does not include an appropriation to the department of health  
9 care policy and financing for medical and long-term care services for  
10 Medicaid eligible individuals.

11 **SECTION 9. Appropriation.** For the 2026-27 state fiscal year,  
12 \$26,353 is appropriated to the department of public health and  
13 environment for use by the health facilities and emergency medical  
14 services division. This appropriation is from the general fund. To  
15 implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for  
16 administration and operations.

17 **SECTION 10. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;  
18 except that section 9 of this act takes effect only if the annual general  
19 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year becomes law, in which  
20 case section 9 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the  
21 annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2026-27, whichever  
22 is later.

23 **SECTION 11. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
24 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
26 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
27 institutions.