

HB 493 -- PAYMENTS FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES

SPONSOR: Henderson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Insurance Policy by a vote of 14 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

Currently, under the Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services Act, health carriers and managed care plans are required to pay benefits directly to any ambulance service when an insured requests services from an ambulance service. This bill limits the direct payment to ground ambulance services.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this removes air ambulances from the direct pay requirement and allows the money to go to the consumer that was transported by air ambulance. This should help the consumer negotiate a lower cost for such charges.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Henderson; Blue Cross Blue Shield; American Health Insurance Plans; Missouri Insurance Coalition; and St. Louis Business Health Coalition.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.