

2026 TASA Legislative Priorities

TennCare Reimbursement Shift in Funding Sources – SB1805/HB1836 – Senator Paul Bailey/Representative Michael Hale

- Since the Ambulance Service Assessment was enacted, ambulance services have provided part of the state's share in the federal dollars drawn down for transport reimbursement.
- While TASA was planning to increase its contribution to this assessment like hospitals, federal law changes have frozen provider taxes and directed payments.
- This leaves ambulance services with limited options to increase their TennCare reimbursements.
- **One of TASA's priorities this year will be to shift the portion of reimbursements funded by ambulance service providers to TennCare and the state of Tennessee. This shift in funding could result in over \$10 million in increase funding for ambulance reimbursement**

TennCare Reimbursement for Nonemergency Transports – SB748/HB201 – Senator Ken Yager/Representative Gary Hicks

- When the Ambulance Service Assessment first passed, it allowed for a provider tax on emergency and nonemergency transports.
- After a narrow reading of the regulations covering provider taxes, CMS ruled that it could no longer apply to nonemergency transports, leaving certain providers at a loss for transports they were used to getting increased reimbursement.
- Nonemergency transports provide an essential role in the EMS system. Without nonemergency transports, the 911 system would be strained beyond where it already is due to increased wait times and call volume.
- **One of TASA's priorities this year is to increase the TennCare reimbursement for nonemergency transports to a sustainable level that allows the industry to continue providing this essential part of EMS.**

Patient Protection from Balance Billing Legislation – SB1376/HB1061 – Senator Bo Watson/Representative Greg Vital

- The Federal No Surprise Act passed several years ago to protect patients from receiving bills for the balance of services unpaid by insurance. This federal law did not include ground ambulance transport.

- TASA believes that ambulance service patients should also be protected from this practice of “balanced billing” and that providers should be properly compensated for services rendered.
- Because ambulance services are at a unique disadvantage in negotiating contracts with payors in that their services are rendered before insurance is verified, TASA believes that legislation addressing balanced billing should also address proper reimbursement from payors.
- **One of TASA's priorities this year will be to prohibit the practice of balanced billing in by ambulance providers, while also setting a minimum reimbursement level from payors that fairly represents the cost and lifesaving nature of these services.**

EMS Provider Retirement Restructure – SB2536/HB2200 – Senator Tom Hatcher/Representative Kelly Keisling

- Tennessee has restructured several aspects of TCRS recognizing the hazardous nature of several essential services provided by state employees such as law enforcement officers, firefighters, and correctional officers.
- **One of TASA's priorities this year will be to update TN retirement laws to also recognize the hazardous nature of EMS providers by allowing for purchase hazardous duty time for prior eligible service.**

Ambulance Assessment – SB2221/HB2097 – Senator Ken Yager/Representative Jay Reedy

- The ambulance assessment generates about \$30 million in federal funding using about \$10 million of revenue generated by providers.
- **If TennCare does not fund the shift in funding from providers, one of TASA's priorities this year will be to renew the ambulance assessment.**